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**Failure of
Root Bill.**

The bill prepared by the Secretary of War for the reorganization and increase of the army has failed for the present session of Congress. Whether this means anything as to the final fate of the measure, or a similar one, cannot now be said. It has, according to the Washington correspondents, been shelved for political reasons, not because of Republican opposition to its provisions. The opposition among the people to an increase of the army is known to be so great that the party in power is afraid to go to the country with a record of having decided to make the army permanently greater. The honest thing to have done would have been just the opposite. If the men at Washington wish the army enlarged and propose to enlarge it provided they are returned, it is little short of downright dishonesty and deception to shove their purpose out of sight, go to the country and try to get elected, and then come back to enact their suppressed wish into law. The issue ought to be made squarely before the country. It is the people who must pay the expenses of an increased army and suffer the final evil consequences of it, and they ought to be fully consulted on the subject. No thoroughly honest and truly patriotic politician will wish them to be kept in ignorance of what is proposed to be done. Let the people everywhere beware of the delays and the covert methods of political militarism.

Brevities.

. . . At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Peace Society on May 28, Hon. Robert Treat Paine, Joshua L. Baily of Philadelphia, Maria Freeman Gray of San Francisco, Leverett M. Chase of Boston and Benjamin F. Trueblood were appointed delegates to the Paris Peace Congress. All of them expect to attend.

. . . The State Department has received assurances that make it practically certain that all the republics of the western hemisphere will take part in the Pan-American Conference to be held in Mexico next year.

. . . The Hague Convention for the extension of the Red Cross to maritime warfare was ratified by the Senate on May 4.

. . . "I think capital punishment a legal atrocity, a species of homicide incomparably more cruel than most private murders, since it inflicts death after long knowledge of death to come has multiplied its terrors for the victim. It is one of the most useless pieces of wickedness left in the world."— *William Dean Howells*.

. . . Rev. Timothy Richards, who has been thirty years in mission work in China, said at the Ecumenical Missionary Conference, "We must now change our standpoint from national to universal."

. . . Rev. Charles M. Sheldon received five thousand dollars for his share of the profits of the Christian newspaper venture for one week at Topeka. He immediately gave one thousand dollars of it to aid the suffering in India, and the rest to various charities.

. . . A Washington dispatch says that the arbitration of all disputes between American republics will be one of the principal features of the program to be considered by the Pan-American Congress which is to meet in the city of Mexico next year. The Administration plan contemplates a treaty establishing a court of arbitration to be composed of distinguished jurists from the several republics, and to which resort shall be voluntary as in the case of the court provided for by the Hague Convention.

. . . The Outlanders in the Coolgardie gold fields region of West Australia have sent a petition to the Queen, signed by upward of twenty-eight thousand persons, asking to be made a separate colony with a representative government. Their grievance is taxation without representation.

. . . It is said that no armor in the world can withstand the new soft-nosed shell invented by an American naval officer. At the trial of it at Indian Head a six-inch naval rifle plugged a clean hole through a plate of Harveyized armor fourteen inches thick. Sequel: All the old warships out of date, and all the navies of the world to be rebuilt at enormously increased cost.

. . . "My desire is to labor, in my measure, for such a union of minds and hearts as will, without destroying the actual diversity of religious institutions, destroy, or at least diminish, the elements of hostility connected with the diversity."— *Ernest Naville*.

. . . "'Prevention is better than cure,' and I would rather help people to abstain from killing and wounding each other than devote the money to patch up their wounds after the battle," says Louise Maude, who proposes to give to the Doukhoborts all the profits of her translation of Tolstoy's "Resurrection."

. . . The *Episcopal Recorder*, referring to the depreciation of arbitration, by the English papers, since the Delagoa Railway award, says: "If there has been any real improvement of late years in the management of international relations, it has been marked by the resort to arbitration."

. . . The *Christian Register* says: "We think Zola may be right when he says that the present crisis is war's death-cry. 'It is war killing war, war making further war impossible.'"

. . . Madame Waszkléwicz, president of the Netherlands' Women's League for International Disarmament, sends us copies of a report of an interview given the League by the Boer peace envoys on the 1st of May. In this interview they asserted solemnly that the Boers never wanted war, that they were forced into it, that conquest was totally absent from their thoughts, that they wished all the difficulties submitted to arbitration, and that they would disarm any moment that they were assured of their freedom and independence.

. . . The Commission of the International Peace Bureau held its spring meeting at Berne on the 15th ult. The principal subjects considered were the Peace Exhibit and Congress at Paris, the Transvaal War and the ratification of the Hague Conventions. An appeal was sent out to all the powers represented at the Hague Conference, strongly urging them to offer mediation between Great Britain and the Transvaal.

. . . The prospect of the early setting up of the permanent international tribunal of arbitration steadily brightens. All three of the Hague Conventions were ratified by the Russian government on the 21st of May.

. . . During the past year there have been over sixty suicides in the United States army, and about one thousand soldiers have been put into the military insane asylum at Washington. Why do not the glorifiers of war lift up their trumpets over these facts?

. . . Rousseau said that the love of mankind is nothing else but the love of justice. Love of justice, rather, is a part of the love of mankind, but love of mankind is the fundamental promoter of justice.

. . . It has been estimated that war devoured not less than *two thousand men per day* in Europe during the terrible twenty-three years from 1791 to 1814.

. . . The Supreme Court on April 30 entered a decree settling the old boundary dispute between Virginia and Tennessee. The old diamond line of 1803 was declared to be "the real, certain and true boundary." The commissioners appointed by the two States were given authority to "ascertain, retrace, remark and re-establish" the line, but were given no authority to locate any other line. The commissioners were William C. Hodkins of Massachusetts, James B. Baylor of Virginia, and Andrew H. Buchanan of Tennessee.

. . . Twenty-one British war correspondents have been killed or have died of disease during the war in South Africa. The London *Daily Mail* alone has had ten put out of service by death or illness.

. . . The Conference of the Independent Labor Party at Glasgow, Scotland, on Easter Monday and Tuesday, declared vigorously by resolution against war, militarism, conscription, and particularly against the war in South Africa. The chairman, Mr Keir Hardie, declared that the annexation of the two republics after the war would be "robbery writ large."

. . . Consul-General Mason at Berlin has written that Germany proposes to advance greatly her duties on imports, especially on those coming from the United States. German merchants attribute the great increase in our foreign commerce to our tariff, and think that German foreign trade would be benefited by a similar system. Mr. Mason is of opinion that friendly relations between this country and Germany would be much strengthened by "an intelligent revision of obsolete treaties and their adjustment to modern requirements and conditions."

. . . Russia has leased a site for a coal depot and naval hospital at the treaty port of Masampho, in Korea. The port is open to navigators of all countries, and the Russian storage of supplies within the site leased is to be governed by the existing treaties. No exclusive right has been ceded to the Russian government.

. . . The sixth annual conference on international arbitration at Lake Mohonk, N. Y., will be held, on the invitation of Mr. Albert K. Smiley, on the 6th, 7th and 8th of June. A large number of invitations have been sent out and it is expected that the attendance will be large. We shall give an extended account of the Conference in our next issue.

Annual Meeting of the American Peace Society.

The Seventy-second Annual Business Meeting of the American Peace Society was held in Tremont Temple, Boston, on May 9. The meeting was not largely attended, but it was unusually full of interest and enthusiasm. The members felt that, in spite of the growth of the spirit of imperialism and of militarism, and the deplorable misfortune of the wars in South Africa and the Philippines, the year has shown substantial and encouraging gain for the cause of international arbitration and the ultimate federation and peace of the world. The course which the ADVOCATE OF PEACE has taken in its criticisms, not only of war in the abstract but of the particular wars now in progress, and of the policies and dispositions out of which they grew, received the cordial and unanimous approval of the members present. The financial condition of the Society received serious attention, and the hope was entertained that its members and friends everywhere throughout the nation would generously supply the deficiency in its resources caused by the temporarily diminished income of the permanent fund held in trust for its work.

The meeting was called to order at two o'clock by Hon. Robert Treat Paine, the president of the Society.

Prayer was offered by Rev. S. C. Bushnell of Arlington, Mass.

Hon. L. H. Pillsbury of Derry, N. H., was chosen secretary for the meeting.

The records of the last annual meeting were read and approved.

A letter of greeting was read from Rev. S. Hopkins Emery of Taunton, Mass., a vice-president, who has been connected with the work of the Society for over sixty years.

All the officers chosen at the previous annual meeting were reported to have accepted their appointment, except one named for vice-president.

The chair appointed Rev. S. C. Bushnell, B. Schlesinger and Nathaniel T. Allen a committee to bring forward names of persons to serve as officers the ensuing year.

The report of the treasurer was then read, approved and ordered to be placed on file. The report showed receipts during the year, including balance from last year of \$5,487.77, expenditures of \$5,410.10, with a balance of \$77.67 in hand. The assets and liabilities account showed a net indebtedness of \$1,349.22.

The auditor reported that he had examined the accounts of the treasurer and found them correctly kept and properly vouched.

After extended discussion of the finances and of the serious diminution in the income of the permanent fund held in trust for the Society, it was voted that the trustees of the fund be requested seriously to consider the advisability of an early sale of the real estate on Beach and Albany Streets, Boston, on which the buildings have run down, and a reinvestment of the proceeds thereof in more productive securities, or of such other